

WHAT IS CLAIMED AS NEW AND DESIRED TO BE SECURED BY LETTERS  
PATENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS:

1. An information saving apparatus for storing shared information, the  
5 information being shared via a network, said apparatus comprising:  
an input/output unit connected to the network;  
an application unit configured to perform predetermined data processing;  
a notification administration unit configured to manage notifications exchanged  
between information-sharing users, wherein one of said information sharing users is a  
10 transmitting-shared information user, and another one of said information sharing users  
is a receiving-shared information user; and  
a storing unit configured to store sending conditions relating to sending of  
notifications, data including notification administration information specifying  
communication methods, and programs,  
15 wherein a notification request for originating notification based on said  
notification to the receiving shared-information user is selectively sent to said  
notification administration unit based upon said application unit receiving shared  
information originating from a transmitting shared-information user via said network and  
said input/output unit subjecting said shared information to predetermined data  
20 processing and storing in said storing unit, and upon a notification accompanying  
origination of shared information from said transmitting shared-information user being  
received, wherein said notification administration unit makes reference to said  
notification administration information and originates said notification based on said  
notification to said receiving shared-information user, according to said sending  
25 conditions and communication method, in response to receiving said notification request.

2. An information saving apparatus for storing shared information, the information being shared via a network, said information saving apparatus comprising:

- an input/output unit connected to the network;
- an application unit configured to perform predetermined data processing;
- 5 a notification administration unit configured to manage notifications exchanged between information-sharing users, wherein one of said information sharing users is a transmitting-shared information user, and another one of said information sharing users is a receiving-shared information user; and
- a storing unit configured to store sending conditions relating to sending of
- 10 notifications, data including notification administration information specifying communication methods, and programs,
- wherein a notification request for originating notification based on said notification to the receiving shared-information user is selectively sent to said notification administration unit based upon said application unit receiving shared
- 15 information originating from a transmitting shared-information user via said network and input/output unit subjecting said shared information to predetermined data processing and storing in said storing unit, and based upon a predetermined event set at said application unit occurring,
- wherein said notification administration unit makes reference to said notification
- 20 administration information and originates said notification or information based on said notification to said receiving shared-information user, according to said sending conditions and communication method, in response to receiving said notification request.

3. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said application unit comprises a

25 plurality of application modules, each of said application modules being configured to

perform data processing specific thereto.

4. An apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein said application modules add information used by application modules corresponding to said notification.

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5. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said notification administration unit immediately originates notification based on said notification to the receiving shared-information user according to the sending conditions included in said notification administration information, said notification selectively being temporarily stored in the storing unit and originated at a time determined by said sending conditions.

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6. An apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein, upon receiving a reception state administration request from said application modules, said notification administration unit generates reception state administration information for managing the reception state of the shared information by said receiving shared-information user.

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7. An apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein, upon receiving a reception confirmation notification from a receiving shared-information user indicating that shared information originated from a transmitting shared-information user has been received, said application module sends said reception confirmation notification based on said reception confirmation notification and an origination request to said notification administration unit, and wherein, upon receiving said origination request, said notification administration unit originates said reception confirmation notification based on said reception confirmation notification to said transmitting shared-information user.

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8. An apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein said application modules add information used by application modules corresponding to said reception confirmation notification based on said reception confirmation notification.

5 9. An information transmitting apparatus for originating shared information and transmitting notifications accompanying the originating of said shared information, the information being shared via a network, said information transmitting apparatus comprising:

a notification creating unit; and

10 a data exchange unit,

wherein said notification creating unit obtains information to be contained in the notification accompanying the originating of said shared information and creates said notification based on said information,

said data exchange unit transmitting said shared information and said notifications  
15 created by said notification creating unit.

10. An apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein said notification creating unit performs at least one of encrypting the notification accompanying originating of said shared information, and adding an electronic signature to said notification.

20 11. An apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein said data exchange unit is configured to transmit a reception state confirmation request for obtaining reception state information of said shared information by the receiving shared-information user, to receive and to selectively decrypt said reception state information, and to selectively  
25 verify an electronic signature.

12. An information receiving apparatus for receiving shared information and transmitting reception confirmation notifications via a network, said information receiving apparatus comprising:

a reception confirmation notification creating unit; and

5 a data exchange unit configured to send and receive data,

wherein said reception confirmation notification creating unit obtains information to be contained in said reception confirmation notification, and creates said reception confirmation notification based on said information.

10 13. An apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein said data exchange unit receives shared information originated from the transmitting shared-information user, selectively decrypts said shared information, selectively verifies an electronic signature, and originates reception confirmation notifications created by said reception confirmation notification creating unit to said transmitting shared-information user.

15 14. An apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein said reception confirmation notification creating unit further performs at least one of encrypting said reception confirmation notification, and adding an electronic signature to said reception confirmation notification.

20 15. An information transmitting method comprising:  
obtaining an information transmitting program via a network;  
installing said information transmitting program in a computer and executing said program;

25 transmitting shared information by said information transmitting program; and

transmitting a notification to a receiver sharing said shared information that said shared information has been originated by said information transmitting program.

16. An information receiving method comprising:

5 obtaining an information receiving program via a network;

installing said information receiving program in a computer and executing said program;

obtaining shared information by said information receiving program; and

10 transmitting said reception confirmation notification by said information receiving program.

17. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions for storing shared information, the information being shared via a network, the one or more sequences of one or more instructions including instructions which,  
15 when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

receiving shared information originated from a transmitting shared-information user via the network;

subjecting said shared information to predetermined data processing;

20 storing the shared information which has been subjected to said data processing;

receiving a notification accompanying the originating of said shared information from said transmitting shared-information user;

making reference to sending conditions relating to sending of notification based on said notification, and notification administration information specifying  
25 communication methods; and

originating said notification based on said notification to a receiving shared-information user, according to said sending conditions and communication method.

18. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions storing shared information, the information being shared via a network, the one or more sequences of one or more instructions including instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of receiving shared information originated from a transmitting shared-information user via the network;
- 10       subjecting said shared information to predetermined data processing;
- storing the shared information that has been subjected to said data processing;
- monitoring occurrences of predetermined events, and making reference to said sending conditions relating to sending of notifications according to said event and notification administration information specifying communication methods; and
- 15       originating said notification based on said notification to a receiving shared-information user, according to said sending conditions and communication method.

19. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions for originating shared information and transmitting notifications
- 20       accompanying the originating of said shared information, information being shared via a network, the one or more sequences of one or more instructions including instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:
- obtaining information to be contained in the notification accompanying the
- 25       originating of said shared information;

creating said notification, based on information to be contained in the notification accompanying the originating of said shared information;

transmitting said shared information and said notification created by said notification creating unit;

- 5           transmitting a reception state confirmation request for obtaining information of the reception state of shared information by a receiving shared-information user; and receiving said reception state information.

20. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more  
10 instructions for receiving shared information and transmitting reception confirmation notifications via a network, information being shared via a network, the one or more sequences of one or more instructions including instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

- obtaining information to be contained in the reception confirmation notification  
15 notifying that said shared information has been received;

creating said reception confirmation notification, based on information to be contained in said reception confirmation notification;

receiving the notification accompanying the originating of shared information originated from the transmitting shared-information user, and said shared information;

- 20           selectively decrypting said shared information and notification;

selectively verifying an electronic signature; and

transmitting a reception confirmation notification to the transmitting shared-information user.